



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - February 14, 2003

- ***In the West***, unsettled weather continues to provide limited drought relief, especially to the ***Southwest***, although serious water-supply concerns persist in most areas east of the ***Cascades and Sierra Nevada***.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial showers are gradually ending across ***southern and eastern portions of the winter wheat belt***. Meanwhile, mild weather continues to favor overwintering wheat on the ***northern and central High Plains***, despite only a patchy snow cover and underlying long-term drought.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and snow showers are boosting topsoil moisture reserves across ***southern portions of the region***, while bitterly cold weather continues to stress livestock in the ***Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are slowing fieldwork but improving topsoil moisture from the ***Delta westward***. Meanwhile, clouds and showers are quickly overspreading the ***Southeast***, although mild, dry weather lingers in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

Outlook: Over the weekend, a slow-moving, complex storm system will move from the ***Delta*** to the ***southern Mid Atlantic Coast***, bringing a large area of snow, sleet, and freezing rain to the ***Corn Belt and Mid Atlantic States***, while locally heavy rain occurs farther south across the ***Tennessee Valley*** and portions of the ***Southeast***. Residual moisture from this storm system will also trigger rain and snow showers in the ***Rockies and high Plains***. Meanwhile, another Pacific storm will bring more rain and mountain snow to the ***Pacific Coast States*** and ***northern Rockies*** during the latter half of the weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 19-23 calls for with wetter-than-usual conditions ***in the West, Delta, Southeast, eastern Ohio Valley, and mid-Atlantic***, and normal precipitation elsewhere. Abnormal warmth is predicted for the ***southeastern quarter of the Nation***, while no areas of subnormal temperatures are expected.

Contact: Mark Brusberg, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-3508)